(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the states are having less demand for LPG cylinders but were given more production licences thus creating a regional imbalances of the item;

(c) whether because of this imbalances the consumer of West Bengal has to pay a lot more than other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, whether efforts to narrow down the imbalance will be made by allowing production licences to existing facilities which are lying idle in that state, if so, by what time and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) There is no shortage of cylinders for supply of LPG in West Bengal.

(b) Units for manufacture of LPG cylinders do not require a licence under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and need only registration with DGTD| State Directorates of Industries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Recession in demand of capital goods

1505. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recession in the demand of capital goods and consumer durations forcing the industrial units in the country to slow down their production tempo;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give any relief to the industry by reducing interest rate on bank credits to revive the industry; and

(c) if so, the decision, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The trends of production achieved by the capital goods sector during the period April-November, '85 indicate a mixed pattern of gorwth. The major inductries which have recorded growth in production during this period include Cement Machinery (61 per cent); Boilers (23 per cent); Metallurgical Machinery (38 per cent); and Road Rollers (163 per cent). However, some of the industries have suffered decline in production during this period; such as Mining Machinery (-20 per cent); Chemical and Pharmaceutical Machinery (-3 per cent); and Railway Wagons (-45 per cent) which is partly attributed to lack of orders. In the consumer durable sector, demand constraint seems to have affected the Bicycle industry; this is considered to be a temporary phase.

(b) and (c) At present there is no proposal under consideration.

Licences to manufacturing companies

1506. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many licences have beeⁿ issued so far to car manufacturing companies with details of collaborations; and

(b) how many industrial licences have been issued to scooter/moped companies with foreign collaboration and whether Government keeps a watch on their performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHA-